CITIZEN SERIES NO. 1.

how!

to.

Feed

the . .

Bradford's Example!

Children.



**B**y .



Alderman E. R. Hartley.

1908

BRADFORD.

Printed and Published by H. BEAUMONT, 18a, Laisterdyke.

Trade Union (48 Hours.)

**是民间的的名词名的的的的的的变形的变形的变形的变形的变形的变形的** 

"Whether there be one God, or three; no God or ten thousand, little Children should be fed, and their bodies kept clean."

JOHN RUSKIN.

## The Citizen Series.

This Pamphlet will be followed by others, dealing with various phases of

# SOCIALISM

from the Practical Side.

In response to numerous enquiries, the Article of . . . .

"JIM SMITH and the TRAMS ... and the ...

GROWTH OF JEREMIAH,"

will be got out IMMEDIATELY.





#### HOW TO

# FEED THE CHILDREN.



O measure of recent years does more credit to the work of the Socialists of Britain than the one giving power to feed the children. Not that the Act goes far enough or is at all adequate, but because it is the outcome of a demand made without ceasing for over a quarter of a century.

The Act should be compulsory and not adoptive. It should give local autonomy by allowing the Local Authority to decide the amount of the rate according to the varying needs of the district concerned. The ratepayers themselves to decide the amount.

Our present business is to see that the new powers are used to the utmost; we have got the wedge in, it must be driven home.

When Socialists first argued for the feeding of the children who were compelled to attend the Nation's schools on the ground that if they were obliged to go to school, we should at least be sure that they were physically fit to receive and benefit by what they were taught. We were told that the children were already fed.

The Cinderella Clubs proved that large numbers of the children were not fed, or at least only partially or badly fed. The work grew, and children's holiday funds, &c., were quite popular.

#### NOT BIG ENOUGH.

The South African War, however, brought matters to a head; when it was found that more than one-half of the young men offering themselves for service, in the time of the Nation's need, were not good enough to be shot at, or to wear the Nation's uniform, people began to think. The youths bred in our slums and reared in our factories and workshops, were so narrow across the chest and their general development too small, to be fair targets for the Dutchmen's guns, they might miss them; and it was this serious problem that caused the first real consideration of the matter. A little enquiry soon showed the main reason to be under and improper feeding.

#### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

When the question of Public Feeding came to the front, we were at once met with the statement that "to feed would take off Parental Responsibility." Results had proved this to be nonsense for, if it was the parents fault, they had evidently **thrown off** the responsibility long ago. Any way the children were not fed.

#### PARENT DRINKS.

The next supposed argument was: "You must not feed the child because the parent drinks."

When this objection was made to me, I always asked: "Is not the child hungry when the parent gets drunk?"

"Yes! but you will be encouraging the parent to continue drinking."

"But he drinks now! Shall we punish the child for the parents fault? If he neglects his duty, all the more reason we should do ours, and by feeding the child, give it a body healthy and strong enough to resist the evil tendencies inherited from such parents."

#### PAUPERISING.

The next line of argument was the most curious of all. "If you feed the children you will pauperise both them and their parents." Most of those who said this were quite in favour of the children being fed by means of public subscription, and failed to see that a sovereign given as a subscription might be the same sovereign paid in rates, and would feed the same number of children, with exactly the same results in either case.

Twelve years experience of public life, has proved to me that the rich and middle classes, never let the fear of being pauperised hinder them from getting either food or anything else out of the Public Funds. I've seen well and overfed persons, who never went short in their lives, crowd and crush in a most indecent manner, to get to the tables at public functions.

As for the poor, as Badahlia said, "They are blooming well pauped already."

#### THE OTHER "EDWARD"!!

Once, when I was speaking about the children, at an open-air meeting, a well-dressed, frock-coated and top-hatted man, came and listened. I held him with my glittering eye, until the end, and hoped he would ask questions. After awhile, he did so.

"If you began to feed the hungry children in the schools, would you not have to go on and feed all the children?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;I hope so!"

I suppose you would be logical, and after feeding them, go forward and clothe them as well?"

- "If I had the power I should most certainly feed and clothe them all!"
  - "Now, I understand! You would pauperise them!"
  - "Would it pauperise them?" I asked.
  - "Of course, it would," he answered.
  - "Let us understand each other," I said.
- "I have five children. Do you mean to say that if they were educated, fed and clothed at the nation's expense, it would pauperise them?"
  - "Most certainly," he replied sharply.
  - "Oh," I said. "Do you know my name?"
- "No! What has that to do with the matter?" And he looked surprised.
  - "My name is Edward, that is all!"
- "What on earth does that mean?" he snapped out impatiently.
- "Well you see, if it would pauperise my children to be brought up at the expense of the nation, I want to know—
  - "Why doesn't it pauperise the other Edward's children?"
  - "What do you mean?" he stammered.
- "If it would pauperise Edward Hartley's children, why doesn't it pauperise Edward Wettin's children? They are fed, clothed and educated by the Nation."

He walked away in disgust, but the crowd applauded, and I went on to explain that when the other Edward's son came to my native town, no one cried "Pauper," but the Corporation voted a sum for one day's entertainment, which was more than a year's product of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate. If it is good enough for the other Edward's children, it is good enough for mine; if good enough for mine they are good enough for everybodys.

Let us have no more gammon about "Pauperising," it is only wrong when you get small quantities, and it is only wrong for the poor.

The Act has been passed and Socialists everywhere must press upon their local authorities the need to adopt and work its provisions to the utmost. If there are any hungry children in the land it must not be our fault if they are not fed.

Three years and a half ago, before the Act? we persuaded the Education Committee to decide to instruct the Cinderella Club, in Bradford, to feed all the hungry children, and the Committee would

meet the Bills. This resolution passed the Council Meeting, only to be rescinded at a later date by a special resolution moved by the Liberal leader, after a Special Meeting at the Liberal Club.

The usual hypocritical speeches were made about having the welfare of the children so much at heart, that they must be fed by charity not out of the rates. Who pays for these meals? One speaker objected to the feeding of the children of the poor at the expense of the rich; it was a wicked thing to try to put your burdens on other people's shoulders.

The impudence of it! Men who never did a day's work in their lives, who, both themselves and their children, have been kept by the workers; and they dare to object to the workers' children being fed out of the very wealth their fathers and mothers have produced. They think it is quite right for the children of the idle non-producing class to have the best of everything, but it is wicked to prevent the wealth producers' children from going hungry.

#### WHO MAKES THE WEALTH?

Let no one who reads this say that it is the rich men's brains and capital which produces the wealth, it is not!

Visiting a mining district where 5,000 were on strike, and pointing out that there is no way of wealth-making.apart from labour applied to the gifts of nature, a voice asked—

#### "What about BRAINS & CAPITAL?"

I at once pointed out that the employers had the same amount of brains and capital they had when the strike began, but there was no coal coming up. If they doubled their capital and brains not a ton of coal would come to the top. Tons of new machinery would be no help, but the day the men returned to work the output would begin again.

However much we may owe to the inventor and organiser for the methods of increasing the produce, it is always the workers who do the actual producing. The workers are the feeders of Society, and it is a scandal that it is their children who have always gone hungry.

To feed the children is the truest economy, and we shall save all the cost, many times over, in a few years' time, in the smaller cost of our prisons, workhouses and Asylums. It was stated a year or two ago that 85 per cent. of our criminals and paupers, etc., came from the ill-fed and uneducated classes.

Bradford has a good reputation as a pioneer of reform, and the Cinderella Club there, has done splendid work. About three years ago, however, they made a special enquiry, and issued a report saying they could not possibly cope with the matter, neither with funds, nor the time necessary for the matter to be done thoroughly.

It was this report and the enquiries following, which led largely to present day results.

Before the Act of Parliament was passed, a great agitation had been raised, and a scathing exposure of the methods of the Liberal Guardians, who had been given charge of the feeding of the children, was made.

When the Act was passed the Socialist members pressed for and carried its adoption, only to find at a later meeting, a wellknown Liberal moving and carrying an amendment to try what charity would do.

Charity had run almost dry and there was only one subscriber of five guineas in a city of nearly 300,000 inhabitants noted for its wealth and the number of its Motor Cars.

When it was settled to carry out the law, the Socialists took care the matter was done thoroughly.

A central cooking place was started, and a large kitchen fitted with five huge cooking boilers and all the necessary utensils and a large oven was provided. The usefulness of the work was helped considerably by an experiment which had been carried on for three months of the early summer of 1907. This was done through the generous help of Alderman Godwin, the Mayor, and forty children were carefully selected, weighed and measured, then given breakfasts and dinners for five days in the week for three months.

This was so successful that it gave a sure foundation on which to work.

The experiment was conducted by Dr. Crowley, the Medical Superintendent to the Education Committee, assisted by Miss Cuff, the lady who is Superintendent of Domestic Subjects.

The menus were carefully prepared to give the largest and most proper amount of nourishment at a small cost, providing proteids, fats, salts, &c., in proper quantities to build up the frame of the children in a healthy rational manner.

The tables were provided with clean cloths and decorated with flowers, all tending to educate the children in the best possible way.

When it was decided to feed a large number of children, we knew the best methods, and the work of the Education Canteen Committee started in the feeding of the children on the first week in November, 1907, the Education Canteen Committee took over the feeding from the hands of the Guardians; they had fed 609, we began with 808 the first week.

When the feeding of the children was handed over to the Guardians, the Board was dominated and controlled by Liberals who styled themselves Radicals and progressives; their conduct can only be described as brutal and cruel, every device they could invent being used to drive the children and their parents to starve quietly.

They charged 3d per meal, for that which, in comparison to what the children get to-day, both in substance, quality and attractiveness, was a miserable fraud. The Socialists frustrated them and step by step gained the present position.

When the Canteen Committee got to work, they decided to take part of the gymnasium at the Green Lane School and make it into a well-equipped, up-to-date kitchen.

Five enormous cooking boilers, a large oven, sinks, machines for paring potatoes, apples, chopping vegetables, mincing beans, fish, &c.

A cook and assistants were engaged and the Superintendent of Domestic Subjects, and the Doctor helped at every turn; indeed the whole of the officials from the Secretary to the Teachers and Caretakers were enthusiastic in their help and support.

This is the method. The Teachers send to the office the names of every child they think requires feeding, and these are enquired into by the Attendance Officers; the information received being filed on the following form:—

Form No. 2.		Case No Officer's No	
City of Bradford	Education Committee.  Act, 1906.		
Name of Child or Children.	School	01	
Address			

Name of Father, Mother and each other Member of Family	Age	Occupation.	Employer.	Weekly Wages. £ s. d.
			Total Income  Deduct Rent  Net Income	

OVER

If Father sich	k, how long so, ar	ng so?nd by whom atter	nded ?	••••••	
Remarks, esp Bills, &c	pecially as to any	y other sources of	income or exp	ense—Doctor's	
	W)				
Date	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Visitor		•••••	
At the exp	iration of each r (if any)	nonth an entry a should be made b	s to change of coelow:	ircumstances	
Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	
Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	
Submitted to Committee on		RESULT.			

The Canteen Committee meet each Thursday, and every case is gone into in detail and meals supplied free, or on the payment of a halfpenny, penny, three half-pence or even twopence for those who can afford. The bulk of the meals are free.

The great outstanding fact of these enquiries, is the readiness with which the majority of the people tell, if they no longer require the meals, when the father, mother, or any member of the family get into work.

Another curious fact is, how they put their wages at the highest point.

- "I have 22/- a week!"
- "But you have been out of work six months; that means you have only 11/- a week!"
  - "No! No!! I have 22/- a week when I'm working!."

The poor fellow feels insulted to think that for a whole twelve months he had only been worth 11/- a week.

Every fortnight or every month a fresh enquiry is made, and some that have been supplied free are asked to make a small payment, say, in case where the father has got into work since the first enquiry.

The nourishing quality of the meals is shown by the following list of Menus, extending over three weeks.

Small helpings are given at first, but there is no limit, and practically every child may have as much as it pleases.



#### .. FIRST WEEK...

Monday.—Yorkshire pudding, peas and gravy. Semolina pudding.

Tuesday.—Meat pudding (stewed steak and plain suet rolypoly). Rice and currants.

Wednesday.—Vegetable pie, peas and gravy. Stewed apples.

Thursday.—Hashed beef and savoury balls. Rice and golden syrup.

Friday.—Fish and potato pie, peas and parsley sauce. Blancmange.

#### .. SECOND WEEK...

Monday.—Lentil soup. Ginger pudding and sweet sauce.

Tuesday.—Cottage pie (meat and potato with pastry crust), peas. Stewed figs.

Wednesday.—Vegetable soup. Sultana roly-poly pudding.

Thursday.—Stewed beef, Yorkshire pudding, haricot beans. Rice and currants.

**Friday.**—Fish and potato pie, peas and sauce. Blancmange and Jam.

#### .. THIRD WEEK...

Monday.—Vegetable and barley broth. Apple tart.

Tuesday.—Shepherd's pie (meat and potato). Rice pudding.

Wednesday.—Vegetable pie, peas and gravy. Stewed figs.

Thursday.—Meat and potato hash, haricot beans. Rice and golden syrup.

**Friday.**—Fish and potato pie, peas and sauce. Blancmange and Fruit.

In addition, there is an unlimited supply of bread.

It will be noted that each day's meal consists of two courses, the first a savoury, consisting of a nourishing and satisfying dish, and the latter a sweet. Not many working men can point to a single week when they have such a list of dinners in their own homes.

The far-reaching consequences of this systematic feeding cannot at present be measured, but an improvement in the cleanliness and manners of the older children is already to be noticed. There are no quicker observers and imitators than children, many of those being fed will carry their love of clean hands and clean linen into later years. When Dr. Crowley made his experiments with the forty children previously mentioned, the first week's results were almost startling. For five weeks before these forty children were fed they were weighed three times, when it was found they were only gaining a little over one ounce each week (the gain should have been six ounces). The First Week of Feeding, the average gain was 1-lb. 4-oz.; one child put on 3-lb. 5-oz.; two others increasing by 2-lb. 3-oz.

Not only did the children "fill out," to use the doctor's phrase, but better still, they "brightened up."

This latter is what we want, and if the children are brightened up all round, we may safely leave the future with its brighter men and women, who will also fill out in more senses than the mere physical one. Other examples were taken, all pointing to the tremendous advantages of the collective feeding of the children.

The Whitsuntide holidays came when the experiment had gone on four weeks, and in twelve days the average loss of weight was 1-lb., and it took two weeks' feeding to recover this loss.

When the Act was adopted and feeding began properly there were only four feeding centres, at the time of writing there are twelve, and another to be opened next week.

This week the numbers fed from Green Lane are nearly 1600, and 150 will be added at the new centre. In addition, about 300 are being fed by private caterers.

It is a busy time at the Central Kitchen about eleven o'clock in the morning; the hot goods are being put into specially prepared cans and boxes, where they will keep hot for hours.

The boxes of plates, mugs, spoons and forks, bread, etc., are all in order, and when the two Motor Vans provided from the Tramways Parcel Department come, everything is in readiness, and in a very short time the food is on its way to the different schools where meals are served.

At the Schools there is one Teacher in charge, with others to assist, the tables being laid by a number of elder girl scholars, who help also with the serving of the food. These little mothers are very proud of their duties, and while they are receiving invaluable lessons in home management, numerous little acts of kindness and help are to be seen.

Aprons are provided for the Teachers, and for the girl waitresses aprons and sleeves.

Many of the children are so unused to good nourishing meals, that they cannot at first eat those provided, it being no unusual thing to see a child refusing some dish with a most appetising smell to an ordinary person, yet, at the same time, showing it was really hungry by eating several pieces of dry bread.

"I don't like it teacher, can't I have some bread and tea?" has been heard many times. Patience and kindness work wonders, and when they grow familiar with the food and surroundings, most of them make excellent meals.

#### WASHING-UP.

When the children have been supplied, they file out in good order, and the teachers and waitresses have their dinners, after which the plates, dishes, etc., are again packed into the boxes, the Motor Vans carrying them back to Green Lane, where there is another very busy time till they are all washed and packed into their various boxes again, ready for next day.

#### A GREAT SUCCESS.

So far the work has been a great success, and while we Socialists can claim to be the initiators, we have not been alone in our efforts to make the matter a success. Men and women of all parties are soon in deadly earnest when it is something to help the children. Help them in the best of all ways, by helping them to be better able to help themselves at a later day.

#### MAKE THE BEST OF THEM.

Mr. Sleary's pregnant advice to Mr. Gradgrind always seems to me specially adapted to our children—

"Make the best of us, and not the worst."

To leave children unfed and unfit to receive the fullest benefit from our Educational system, seems very like making the worst of them. All History and experience are with us. "Healthy body, healthy mind," is proverbial, and the ladies and gentlemen of high birth and culture, who like the others are only descendants of the cave dwellers, owe more of their present fine habits and manners than they are aware of, to the fact that for many generations they have been removed from the first primal struggle to get food. What has served in their case will hold good for the race. When men and women generally have not to spend their main energies in getting the bread that perisheth, they will have both time and inclination for higher things. In a wolfish struggle for food, there is no time or chance for the greater things which make for life.

#### CHILDREN v. DREADNOUGHTS.

The present serious decrease in the birth-rate, makes it all the more necessary that we should make the best of those children we have. If we are merely struggling for Trade, I have far less fear of the German Navy than the growth of the German Schools. No possible Navy we can provide will enable us to keep our place amongst the nations of the world, if the masses of our people are physically and mentally inferior.

With a Nation of men and women "full summed in all their powers," having intellectual power to understand and physical power to perform, no outside force can do us harm. But, with a Nation strongly recruited from the British Barbarian, and with, as our doctor told us, 13 per cent. of the children underfed, and with little (if any) chance of a right development, there is always the greatest danger in the future.

Children to-day! Nation to-morrow!! Let us never forget that in a few short years the world's work will have to be carried on by those who to-day are in our schools and playgrounds.

What we make those children to-day, that the Nation will be to-morrow.

Amongst the most intelligent people of to-day, the greatest scorn is felt for the father who neglects to give his children the fullest opportunity of education; whilst scorn would change to anger and contempt, if it were known he also refused to give them proper quantities of food.

The Nation can no more afford to neglect the children as a whole, than the parents.

The tremendous economy to be made in feeding large numbers like these is already proved, and will lead—no one knows where. The Staff, at the Cookery Centre at Green Lane, prepare food for nearly 2000 persons. The same Staff do all the washing-up.

#### Relief for Hard-Worked Mothers.

Now ye tired mothers! (a great part of whose lives are now spent in preparing meals and clearing them away)! When Robert Blatchford showed in Merrie England the great saving of time and money, to say nothing of the saving of the lives and opportunities of our women by collective cooking, there were many sceffers.

Yet, here we have a staff of six, three men and three women, preparing and cooking for nearly 2000, and in addition doing all the washing up for the same number. What a chance of relief for our tired mothers!

There are great possibilities in the future for you, where more leisure shall be your lot, under a wiser dispensation.

The children will be as well, and in many cases better fed.

The general economy will be great, and many an overburdened mother will have cause to bless the day when an answer was given to what had often seemed a fruitless prayer for children—

"Give us this day, our daily bread!"



# H. BEAUMONT, Printer, Bookbinder, Etc.

ՊոՊոՊոտանականական արգագայան արգայան անական ար

Works: 18a, Laisterdyke,

BRADFORD, Yorks.

and the first state of the control o

### PAMPHLETS a Speciality!

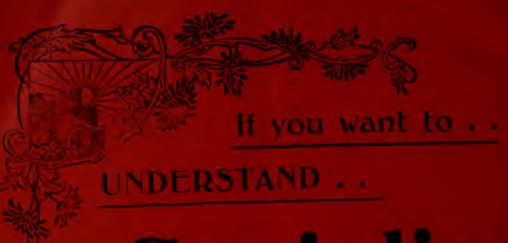


I shall be pleased to furnish Estimates in this particular Branch of the Printing Art. Workmanship & expeditious despatch guaranteed.

IMPORTANT.—Public, Political, and Trade Union Organisations, can depend on their favours being executed under full Trade Union conditions, and a 48-Hour Week.

A TRIAL SOLICITED!

Reasonable Charges!



# Socialism

Read the Socialist Newspapers!



# "JUSTICE!"

The Oldest SOCIALIST . . . . NEWSPAPER in ENGLAND. .

# "The CLARION!"

"The most Human of the . . SOCIALIST NEWSPAPERS."

# "Labour Leader!"

Which deals with the Labour . Side of the Socialist Movement.

